

PATENTS
U.S.S.N. 09/475,531
Filed: December 30, 1999
Response to Office Action Mailed April 9th, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 11 and 25 Are Allowable

The subject matter of Claim 1 allows a caller to place a call by providing valid billing information. If the unit placing the call is identified as a set activation pay (SAP) telephone, then a charge is made for the call.

The Office Action rejected Claim 1 as obvious based on *Nolting et al.* in view of *Lesley*. The Office Action erred. *Nolting et al.* describes an evaluation system of compiled communications information. *Nolting et al.* does not teach nor suggest subject matter related to activities of call connection and billing based on receipt of valid billing information from the caller. *Lesley* does not fill the gaps.

In particular, *Nolting et al.*'s traffic track system evaluates specific patterns of communications traffic. This evaluation takes place AFTER such communications have been completed and information on the communications has been collected. Based on the collected information, *Nolting et al.* may take action to determine whether charges are to be billed for any of the communications that were tracked.

Nolting et al. does not describe any actions that interact or interfere with or otherwise change the communications activity being tracked. *Nolting et al.*'s traffic track system makes its evaluations after collection of the information on the communications activity. In sum, *Nolting et al.* describes an evaluation system for communications that does not allow for nor provide any interface with the activities carried out in the course of such communications activity.

Applied to Claim 1, *Nolting et al.*'s traffic track system does not teach nor disclose actions of Claim 1. In particular, *Nolting et al.*'s traffic track system

PATENTS
U.S.S.N. 09/475,531
Filed: December 30, 1999
Response to Office Action Mailed April 9th, 2003

does not receive a telephone number and billing information from an SAP telephone. *Nolting et al.*'s traffic track system uses management data from a network as explained below:

"The call records are developed from monitoring or compiling of items of information from certain management data messages used by the network. Management data here refers to information generated by the telecommunications network for its operations purposes, for example, interoffice signaling messages generated to control call set-up and tear-down. Another example of such data would be messages sent from central offices of the network to an accounting office, for record keeping and billing purposes."

Nolting et al., col. 5, lines 48-56. See also *Nolting et al.*, col. 8, lines 33-46. Thus, *Nolting et al.* does not receive a telephone number and billing information from a SAP telephone as set forth in Claim 1.

The failure of the traffic track system of *Nolting et al.* to teach or suggest receiving a telephone number and billing information from an SAP telephone as set out in Claim 1 is in accord with the fact that *Nolting et al.* provides an evaluation system based on records of telecommunications traffic made after the fact rather than on live or real time communications.

To more particularly point out the subject matter of the invention, Claim 1 has been amended to point out that the determination of whether the billing information is valid happens "after" receiving the telephone number and the billing information. Further, Claim 1 has been amended to point out that if the billing information is valid, a telephone call is caused to be connected to the telephone number received from the SAP telephone.

PATENTS
U.S.S.N. 09/475,531
Filed: December 30, 1999
Response to Office Action Mailed April 9th, 2003

Claim 1 is allowable at least for the reasons mentioned above. Thus, the claims depending from Claim 1 (Claims 2 – 7) are also allowable at least for the reasons regarding Claim 1's allowability.

Claim 8 is an independent claim erroneously rejected for the same reasons as Claim 1. Claim 8 is allowable at least for the reasons Claim 1 is allowable. Thus, the claims depending from Claim 8 (Claims 9 – 11) are allowable at least for the reasons regarding Claim 8's allowability.

Claim 25 was erroneously rejected together with Claims 1 – 11. At least for the reasons set forth above, Claim 25 is allowable.

Claims 12 – 17 Are Allowable

Independent Claim 12 was erroneously rejected primarily for the same reasons that Claims 1 and 8 were erroneously rejected. At least for the reasons described above, Claim 12 and its dependent claims (Claims 13 – 17) are allowable.

Claims 18 – 22 Are Allowable

Claims 18 – 22 were erroneously rejected as obvious in light of *Golden*, United States Patent 4,897,970 in view of *Nolting et al.*

The Office Action ignores limitations in independent Claim 18 that are not taught nor suggested by *Golden* nor *Nolting et al.* For example, the Office Action states *Golden*: maintains a false dial tone; "inherently" releases the false dial tone; and "inherently" seizes a true dial tone. Respectfully, there is nothing in *Golden* that discloses it provides a false dial tone, a release of the false dial tone, nor the seizing of a true dial tone. The citation in the Office Action do not support such a position. In fact, *Golden* specifically states:

PATENTS
U.S.S.N. 09/475,531
Filed: December 30, 1999
Response to Office Action Mailed April 9th, 2003

"[N]etwork interface 35 prevents any auditory feedback to handset 43 as a result of the call being placed."

Golden, col. 6, lines 10-11.

Further, the arguments above regarding the lack of supportive basis in *Nolting et al.* with respect to the Claims 18 – 22 are reiterated. Thus, Claims 18 – 22 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above.

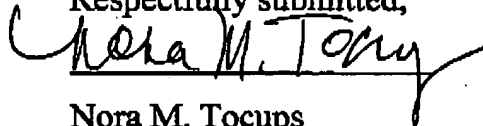
Claims 23 - 24 Are Allowable

Independent Claim 23 was erroneously rejected primarily for the same reason that Claims 1 and 8 were erroneously rejected. At least for the reasons described above, Claim 23 and its dependent claims are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted the pending claims are allowable and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If there are any issues that can be resolved via telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 404.372.1430.

Respectfully submitted,



Nora M. Tocups
Reg. No. 35,717

Nora M. Tocups
Attorney for Assignee
P.O. Box 698
Decatur, Georgia 30031-0698
(404) 372-1430
ntocups@bellsouth.net
Attorney Docket No. 0201-99029

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
OCT 10 2003

OFFICIAL